New York Times (1857-Current file); Sep 15, 1869;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers New York Times (1851-2006) w/ Index (1851-1993)
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The New-York Times.

VOL. XVIII.....NO. 5610. NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1869. PRICE FOUR CENTS.

HUMBOLDT.

The One Hundredth Birthday of the Philosopher.

Celebration Generally Throughout the Country.

Unveiling of the Bust at the Central Park.

ORATION BY DR. FRANCIS LIEBER.

Processions, Banquet and Speeches in this City.

EXTENSIVE OBSERVANCES IN BOSTON.

Eulogistic Address by Professor Agassiz.

IN THIS CITY.

Extent of the Observances—Decorations in the City and on the Shipping—Leading Features of the Celebration.

The centennial of the birth of the great man of science, whose fame no nation can claim, but whose memory our more demonstrative German fellow-citizens are naturally foremost in publicly honoring, was celebrated in this City yesterday by a grand procession in the morning, followed by the unveiling of the statue of HUMBOLDT at the Central Park, with appropriate ceremonies, in the afternoon, and by a torchlight procession and dinner in the evening. The admirable arrangements of the Committee charged with the conduct of the whole affair were carried out promptly and with exactness. The parade in the morning was an imposing one, and that in the evening still more so. Many whose occupations prevented them from joining in the demonstration in the daytime were at liberty to swell the ranks of the torch-light procession, which took place after working hours. The exercises at the Central Park were witnessed by an immense throng. The weather was delightful. It was a day on which any pretext might have been gladly seized for visiting the pleasant pastures provided for the people. It was a peculiarly propitious one for the occasion which brought them together in such large numbers in the vicinity of the Scholars' Gate. A full account of the scenes and ceremonies there and elsewhere is given below. Although those who marched in the processions, and a majority of those who gathered at the Central Park to gaze for the first time upon the representation in bronze of the features of HUMBOLDT, were Germans, the occasion was one of interest to all classes of our citizens, albeit they had a different way of showing it from the immediate countrymen of the savant. Civic processions in this country, except in commemoration of some great event of national significance, are of rare occurrence. The memory of the great men who have marched to victory over the bloodless paths of science and literature is kept green in the hearts of our people, wherever the great scholars' books are read or their works made manifest, without public demonstrations of this character. But the manner in which a man like HUMBOLDT should be remembered among us is a subject of little comparative importance. He has left his own monuments behind him—the works in which are inscribed his own imperishable records; and everywhere by these his genius is commemorated unto all men for all time.

The Procession to the Park.

Many of the houses on the streets through which the procession was to pass, and those generally in which the Germans chiefly dwell on the eastern side of the town, were gaily decorated with flags of the United States and of Fatherland. On some of the dwellings were transparencies on which were painted portraits of HUMBOLDT, and from the windows of others depended festoons of varie-colored Chinese lanterns. The transparencies and the lanterns were lighted up in the evening, presenting a fine effect. In Avenue A and the Bowery the houses were most lavishly decorated. At the corner of Houston-street and the Bowery a fine portrait of HUMBOLDT was exhibited, and at the Steuben House was another, with numerous inscriptions in German, and the name "Minerva" in large letters. The shipping in the harbor was bright with bunting. On the City Hall, besides the national and municipal banners, was displayed in front of the balcony one bearing this inscription: "1769—HUMBOLDT—1869." Flags were waving gaily on the public buildings generally, and the City seemed to be in holiday dress; so were the crowds that early in the day thronged the route that the procession was to take, especially in what may be denominated the German quarter of the City on the east side. The various societies that were to have a place in the procession marched to their places of rendezvous with banners streaming and music floating in the breezes of the morning, and by 11 o'clock all was in readiness, and the column moved over the designated route in the following order:

Grand Marshal, Brigadier-General LOUIS BURGER and Aid, Colonel LUX.

Section of Police, followed by open barouches, containing the Executive Committee of the Humboldt Festival.

First Division—Band; Marshal, Colonel SCHWARZ and Aids; New-York Schillerbund, with flags and banners, 300 men; German Democratic Union General Committee; a Society of Swiss residents.

Second Division—Band; Marshal, Colonel UNEBANNT and Aids; Company of Cadets; the German independent schools, 300 boys; German Cigar-makers' Union, No. 90, 500 members.

Third Division—Band; Marshal, Colonel ADAM SENGES and Aids; the Turners of New-York, Brooklyn and Jersey City; German veterans of the war, with battle flags.

There were ten bands of music in the line, and hundreds of elegant banners. The men marched four abreast, and the display, though not a very large one, was altogether very creditable. There were between 2,000 and 3,000 men in the procession. Marching down the Bowery, through Canal-street and up Broadway to Union-square, the column was there dismissed temporarily, the societies that composed it taking cars by different routes and proceeding to the Central Park.

At the Park—Unveiling the Bust.

Long before the time announced for the beginning of the ceremonies at the Park an immense throng of people had gathered in the vicinity of the Scholars' Gate, Fifth-avenue and Fifty-ninth-street, anxiously awaiting the exercises of the occasion. The cars arriving by the various street railroad routes brought constant additions of old and young to this multitude, so that when the hour of 2 o'clock arrived there were not less than 25,000 persons, two-thirds of whom were Germans, in attendance on the ceremonies. Shortly before this hour the procession of societies reformed in Fifty-ninth-street, the right resting on Fifth-avenue, and soon after marched into the Park. The bust is of bronze, and stands not far from the entrance through the Scholars' Gate on the left hand side. It rests on a square pillar of granite, and has a total height of twelve feet from the ground. It is about three times the size of life and presents a most attractive appearance. In front it bears the inscription, "ALEX. VON HUMBOLDT," and on one side the name of the artist, "GUST. BLAESER—*fecit*, 1869," and on the other the names of the makers, "GEORG HOWALDT & SOHN, geg. Braunschweig, 1869." It was, of course, veiled yesterday, until the time for its formal uncovering arrived. On either side of the bust a platform was erected, covered with a large awning, and hung around with bunting (the American and German flags entertwined.) Small American flags also decorated the front and sides of these platforms. The one on the right was reserved to the speakers, the Committee of Arrangements, and the invited guests, and the other was appropriated to the reporters. Among the prominent gentlemen present were C. E. DETMOLD, Esq., Chairman of the Committee, Professor FRANCIS LIEBER, Professor R. OGDEN DOREMUS, Rev. Dr. JOS. P. THOMPSON, representative from the American Geographical and Statistical Society, Rev. O. B. FROTHINGHAM, Comptroller GREEN of the Central Park Commission, and many prominent German merchants. The various singing societies having filed into the Park took places in front of the bust, the flags of these organizations being grouped together on the left of the orchestra, which was seated in front of the northernmost platform.

At 2 o'clock the assemblage was called to order by C. E. DETMOLD, Chairman of the Humboldt Monument Association, and after the orchestra had performed the overture to "Oberon," he formally presented the monument to the Commissioners, and addressed the audience as follows:

THE PRESENTATION ADDRESS.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: The desire to honor and perpetuate the memory of those who, by their genius and virtues have shed lustre upon the path of humanity, is one of the most ennobling impulses of our nature. It was in obedience to this dictate that a number of citizens of New-York, native and adopted, associated themselves for the purpose of celebrating the centennial anniversary of the birth of ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT, by erecting a monument to him in this Park, whereby to testify their respect for the man, as well as to transmit to future generations a faithful representation of his benign and intellectual features. The century that has elapsed since the birth of HUMBOLDT almost coincides with the first century of American independence, and is marked by greater material, moral and intellectual progress than any preceding one in the world's history. That this is due in a great measure to the influence of the free institutions of this country, of which HUMBOLDT was a most earnest and consistent friend and admirer, cannot be denied. There was a two-fold propriety, therefore, that the citizens of America should commemorate the occasion by an enduring monument. The proposition met with the prompt and cordial approval of the Commissioners of the Central Park, and their enlightened Comptroller, who, with a characteristic nice sense of the fitness of things, has assigned this appropriate and conspicuous place, near the "Scholars' Gate," for the reception of the colossal bust of HUMBOLDT, which we have this day assembled to unveil and to inaugurate with becoming ceremonies. I leave to others more able and eloquent the pleasant task of dwelling at large upon the high claims which HUMBOLDT has upon the love and admiration of the citizens of America in common with the rest of the civilized world, and content myself with now performing the closing part of my duties in connection with this occasion in formally asking of you, Mr. Comptroller, of the Central Park Commission, on behalf of the subscribers, the acceptance of this bust of HUMBOLDT as the permanent property of the Park. It was made expressly for this occasion by that eminent artist, Professor GUSTAVE BLAESER, of Berlin, and as a true likeness of HUMBOLDT, as well as a noble work of art, it will not be among the least attractive features of this beautiful Park.

Messrs. FRED. KUEHNE, Consul at this port for the North German Confederation, and WILLIAM AUFERMANN then unveiled the statue, which was saluted with cheers and three strains by the orchestra.

COMPTROLLER GREEN'S SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE.

ANDREW H. GREEN, Esq., Comptroller of the Central Park, replied as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT OF THE HUMBOLDT MONUMENT ASSOCIATION: The Commissioners of the Park receive with especial satisfaction the memorial to HUMBOLDT, now presented through you by that Association. The City of New-York, the metropolis of the continent, at the same time eminently a cosmopolitan city, numbers among her citizens those of many languages and races. Indeed, a very large and much respected and honored portion of the whole people are of the land upon which the illustrious man whom we meet to honor first opened his eyes, one hundred years ago. In the construction and conduct of the Park, the Commissioners have endeavored to reflect and represent this pervading broad and catholic cosmopolitan sentiment of her people. All men, of all climes and tongues, find here a cordial welcome; and, in the pastimes of the children, in the strains of the music, in the birds, in the trees and flowers, each, as he wanders through this place of popular amusement, will find suggestions that call back sweet memories of the hours of his childhood, and make him feel that, though a new-comer, he is no stranger. The gates of the Park, to one of which you have made allusion, the Commissioners, discarding hackneyed systems, have endeavored to characterize by generalizing various industries of civilized communities, both intellectual and physical, and to represent them in a group indicating the principal entrance-ways toward the present City. The occupations of the artisan, the artist, the merchant and the scholar will be duly represented, and other gates will gratefully acknowledge the intimate relations and dependence of the City upon the successful individuals in the various pursuits and occupations of every part of our Union of States, thus affording, as originally intended, ample scope and field for the most refined artistic illustration. At the Scholars' Gate, that in its decoration is to represent, in appropriate forms, the intellectual operations of all civilized communities, the poet, the teacher, the statesman, the lawyer, the physician, the author, the editor and the man of science, the Commissioners of the Park are happy to-day to be able so fitly to inaugurate the execution of this symmetrical arrangement, by the establishment of the memorial of one who was so eminently the student of the universe, and whose lofty fame and name are worthy of the highest methods of artistic expression. They accept the work you present, and cheerfully give it an honored place in the people's grounds, to stand for all time as an appreciative sign of the respect that is rendered to one whose years were spent in labors, the benefits of which are not confined to the land that gave him birth, but are as widespread and universal as the bounteous nature whose scholar and student he was.

The various societies present then sang the chorus, "*O Isis and Osiris*" from MOZART'S "Magic Flute."

ADDRESS OF PROFESSOR LIEBER.

Professor FRANCIS LIEBER was then introduced by the President, and addressed the assemblage in German. The following is a translation of a portion of his address:

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN: The beautiful bust has been unveiled, and now displays the noble features of the great man whose birth, one hundred years ago, we celebrate this day. Three spots on this globe are preëminently fit and entitled to erect a monument to ALEXANDER HUMBOLDT. Berlin, his birthplace, and where he passed the largest portion of his laborious life; Paris, which he considered almost as much his own as Berlin; and this Park, which the people have royally laid out for themselves. It is the fairest portion of this international town—the foremost City of the country he loved so well, of the whole continent, the field of his glory. HUMBOLDT, though a German in the lineaments of his character and talents, was of all modern men the one whose endeavors, aspirations and fame were least limited by national demarcations. If we take the word Catholic in a sense agreeable to its etymology, he was the most catholic man in modern times. Europe, Asia and America were equally his by visit and discovery. He wrote scientific dissertations with equal satisfaction in German, French and Spanish. New-York is far the most international, or, as the Greeks would have expressed it, all-national place in the world, where Asiatics, Africans and Europeans meet, traveling eastward or westward. This is the fitness, real and symbolical, of the place where we now stand, for the monumental image of ALEXANDER HUMBOLDT—a fitness which will be increased by the proposed museum of natural history to be established in yonder building, in former times an arsenal of the United States. A German collection of great value has already been purchased for this purpose, by means furnished by liberal citizens of ours, and the traveler, BICKMORE, the pupil of AGASSIZ, the follower of HUMBOLDT, will be the director of this collection.

HUMBOLDT is one of the magnates in the history of our race; and as this race spreads further and further over the globe, so he will be a magnate in the truly universal history of our kind—in the history of progress, which, like the rays of the sun, spreads as it rises and advances. He is not one of those men, the rise of whose name only keeps pace with the sweeping harm they inflict, because their own name is their own curse. HUMBOLDT was a fortunate man; he was great, he was kind, liberal in every way, laborious, of vivid perception, a man of the highest culture and of æsthetic taste. After having elaborated this point considerably, the professor went on to say that: When HUMBOLDT must have been much beyond 70 years of age, he was seen willing, like any of the Berlin students in the lecture-room of the geographer RITTER, to learn geography anew, and almost to his dying day, in the ninetieth year of his life, he studied, wrote and taught. His health must have been marvelous. He worked and enjoyed his social intercourse literally night and day. It has been said, "Modern majesty is work." That majesty sat on his brow indeed. HUMBOLDT was a far harder-working man than any with hammer in hand, or behind the plow. In the year 1844, when he had reached, therefore, the age of 75 years, he told the speaker at Potsdam that he was engaged in a work which he intended to call *Cosmos*; that he was obliged chiefly to write at night, for in the morning he studied and arranged materials, or received visitors, and in the evening he was expected to be with the King from 9 o'clock to about 11. After his return from the King he was engaged in writing until 1 or 2, and even 3 o'clock. Would not the Greek philosopher, reticent of gratulation, have pronounced him fortunate? He was fortunate, but, happily, not a child of fortune. He was a man of utmost simplicity, and he was great. He was most amiable and helpful, even to the youngest and those who were least connected with him. HUMBOLDT was liberal. No one has ever heard from his lips any indication from which it might be surmised that he shared in that supercilliousness with which modern naturalists not unfrequently look upon other sciences and branches of knowledge. On the contrary, he took the deepest interest in human society, and all the branches which treat of men as social beings. He never fell, so far as I know, into the grievous error of considering Matter, Space, Force and Time of superior importance to Mind, Society, Right and Goodness. Although it has been stated by high authority that the works of HUMBOLDT show to every one who can "read between the lines" an endeavor to present Nature in her totality unconnected with man, I cannot otherwise than state here that, on the contrary, it has ever appeared to me that this great man, studying Nature in her details, and becoming what BACON calls her interpreting priest, elevates himself to those heights whence he can take a comprehensive view of her in connection with Man and the movements of society; with language, economy and exchange, institutions and architecture, which is to man almost like the nidifying instinct to the bird. HUMBOLDT'S tendency in this respect seems in its sphere not wholly dissimilar to the view which his friend RITTER takes of geography in connection with history. And do we not all know with what interest and critical skill he pursued historical questions? HUMBOLDT did not only view Nature in her totality as she is; he did not only search her own history which has made her progressively that which she is, (for the conception of successive geologic eras is his;) but the history of man's knowledge of nature, the development of discoveries and the growth of geography, had an equal charm for his fine intellect. In these researches he showed the true spirit of the historian, for whom no detail is too small, and whose comprehensive mind allows no detail to lead him to historical trifling. Let us present him to ourselves at one time as standing on the Andes, or his mind soaring in high circles like a sailing eagle; at another time tracing, with ant-like industry, the beautiful name of our continent to the German schoolmaster that invented and first proposed it. HUMBOLDT, it would seem, could hardly be expected to stand in a different relation to the natural sciences. He was, with all his erudition and the grandeur of his knowledge, eminently a social man. In politics he simply yet openly voted at the ballot-box against the Administration, although he was at the same time an officer of the Court of FREDERIC WILLIAM IV. In his simplicity and genial warmth he did what many a bold man would have hesitated to do. I was present as a young and silent listener, when at Rome, immediately after the Congress of Verona, the King of Prussia, HUMBOLDT and NIEBUHR conversed on the affairs of the day, and when the last-mentioned spoke in no flattering terms of the political views and antecedents of ARAGO, who, it is well-known, was a very advanced republican of the Gallican school, an uncompromising French Democrat. FREDERICK WILLIAM IV, simply eschewed republicanism; yet when NIEBUHR had finished, HUMBOLDT said, with a sweetness which I vividly remember, "Still, this monster is the dearest friend I have in France." He lived when VOLTAIRE died, and must have grown up with many French ideas floating around him, for HUMBOLDT was a nobleman whose family lived within the atmosphere of the Berlin Court; and he lived to witness the great revolutions in literature, as well in Germany as in France and England; he lived when ROUSSEAU died, (the same year of VOLTAIRE'S death,) and must have remembered, from personal observation, that homage which even monarchs paid (at a distance, it is true,) to the Contrat Sociale, and he outlived by some weeks DE TOCQUEVILLE. He lived through the period of the American Revolution; was a contemporary of WASHINGTON and ADAMS, and a friend of JEFFERSON. He lived through the French Revolution and the age of the classic orators of Britain. He lived through the Napoleonic era and the resuscitation of Prussia and all Germany. He studied under WERNER, with whom mineralogy begins, and knew HOFY. He knew LAPLACE, survived ARAGO and GAUSS, and worked with ENKE. He lived with KANT, and knew SCHELLING and HEGEL. He knew GOETHE and read HEINE. He read GIBBON'S *Decline* as a work of a living author, and perused NIEBUHR, and later still praised PRESCOTT. He grew up in the Prussian monarchy according to the type of FREDERICK the Great, and with the fresh reminiscences of the Seven Years' War, and left it changed in army, school, government—in everything. He saw the beginning of the Institute of France, and lived to be considered by its associates as one of its most brilliant ornaments at its most brilliant period. Of his simplicity but this, that although a courtier and a native nobleman, the prejudices of the numerous German *noblesse* never tainted him even in the least offensive form. Unmarried as he was, there were several private houses in Berlin in which he was always most welcome for his meals, and the friends in these houses were all citizens, not so-called noblemen. Of his general liberality and justice, only this that with his profound knowledge of races and species he always, openly and unconditionally, condemned slavery. Of his keen sense of progress, only this, he took the deepest interest in the projected ship-canal through the Isthmus of Darien, demanding constant information about it from his friends in America. Of his æsthetic sense and instincts only this, that in the conception as well as the execution of his *Cosmos*, the element of the beautiful is largely manifest, as it was in the Greek word itself. Of the comprehensiveness of his head and heart only this, that he took, like his brother WILLIAM, the deepest interest in the widest-spread common school system, and the loftiest university education; that modern penology elicited his attention, and the trial by jury arrested his observation and reflection. Of his mein—there it is—his brow of high capacity and his winning lips. Great names are a treasure of nations; HUMBOLDT'S name is a portion of the treasure of our kind, and on a spot like this, with such a monument, let us be thankful not only for the kindly fruits and the lovely trees of the earth, but also, and more warmly still, for the kindly fruits and the lovely blossoms of the mind. For the young who hear me, I conclude with HUMBOLDT'S own words, in the last letter he wrote before setting sail for South America: "Man must will the good and the great; the rest comes as decreed." For all, I conclude with those words of PERICLES, with which, on an occasion not dissimilar, I began my address: "The whole earth is the monument of illustrious men."

The chorus "Jubilant Rises Creation," by MOHR, was then given by the societies, with orchestral accompaniment, after which Professor R. OGDEN DOREMUS proceeded to address the assemblage.

SPEECH OF PROFESSOR DOREMUS.

Professor DOREMUS commenced by alluding to the honors that were bestowed on the remains of the great NAPOLEON by the French people, after their transfer to France from the island of his imprisonment. NAPOLEON received the homage of a nation; HUMBOLDT receives that of a world. Even creation rises jubilant, as has just been so harmoniously expressed, to do him honor. The Professor then alluded to the wonders of nature, which have been revealed by means of the telescope, the microscope and the spectroscope, unfolding to us the Supreme Intelligence controlling the universe in all its vastness. Among those who rank the highest as searchers into these great arcana, none rises superior in fame to HUMBOLDT. The speaker gave a *résumé* of the principal points in the *Cosmos*, as showing how expansive was the mind and how searching were the investigations of the great philosopher, whose birth was to-day being so widely celebrated. In closing, he recommended the student, as he passed by this statue and beheld the mute yet eloquent lips of the admirable representation of the renowned philosopher, to take courage in the prosecution of their mental labors, and determine to acquire, as far as possible, a knowledge of the sciences, an acquaintance with which has made the great German so famous.

The grand chorus "*Dies ist der Tag des Herrn*," (This is the Lord's Own Day) was then given by the united singing societies, after which President DETMOLD declared the ceremonies ended, and the vast assemblage dispersed.

The Torchlight Procession.

The torchlight procession in the evening was a most imposing affair. It was estimated that upward of 15,000 persons, representing almost every branch of industry and art, joined in the line. There were singing societies, Turners, cigar manufacturers, machinists, clothing-cutters, and a score of other societies and Unions. Various appropriate devices were borne along by the processionists, who marched to the most delightful music of the bands. The route, commencing at the Germania Assembly Rooms, lay through the Bowery to Grand, to Broadway, to Fourteenth-street, around Union-square, through Tenth-street to Avenue A, to Houston-street to the Bowery. At the last-named point a huge bonfire was kindled, made up of the torches, and songs were sung, after which the multitude dispersed. The processionists were warmly greeted as they passed through the streets, the people cheering them lustily.

Banquet in the Evening.

The festivities closed with a grand banquet in the evening at the new Liederkranz Hall, in Fourth-street. The Hall was tastefully decorated, both outside and inside, with German and American flags. Four tables, extending the entire length of the hall, furnished covers for 250 guests and over, one table being reserved for gentlemen accompanied by ladies, of whom forty or fifty graced the banquet with their presence. At the upper end of the hall hung an exceedingly life-like portrait of HUMBOLDT, by SCHRADER, representing the great naturalist seated on a rock on the summit of the Andes, surveying the panorama of mountain scenery around and beneath him. Excellent music was furnished by ANSCHUTZ orchestra.

Mr. C. E. DELMOLD presided at the table, and on his right hand was seated Baron GEROLT, Ambassador of the North German Confederation; Dr. Francis Lieber, Dr. Koerner, Mr. Klamroth, Professor Doremus, Mr. Auforman and Mr. Torrey; and on his left Mr. Stebbins, Viscount de Loosey, Mr. Kuhner, General Butterfield, Mr. Havemeyer, Mr. Rosiring and Rev. Dr. Thompson. At the opening of the feast, a poem written for the occasion by EMIL RITTERHAUS, was recited with good effect by the celebrated German tragedienne, FANNY JANAUSCHEK. The following toasts were then announced by the Chairman, at intervals between the service of the different courses, each course being interlarded with a speech to help digestion—a truly German and altogether novel way of conducting a public banquet:

1st. "Humboldt;" responded to by F. KAPP.
2d. "Deutschland;" response by Baron GEROLT, Ambassador of the North German Confederation.
3d. "The United States;" response by Rev. Dr. THOMPSON.
4th. "New-York;" response by Dr. KNAPP.
5th. "The Common Brotherhood of Nations — Science makes them one;" response by SIMON STERN.
6th. "German and American Science;" response by Dr. H. KNAPP.
7th. "Bonpland et Arago, *les amis de Humboldt*;" response by Professor CHAELIER.
8th. "Die Presse;" response by CHARLES A. DANA.
9th. "The Commissioners of Central Park."
10th. "The Ladies."

Mr. KAPP, in responding to the first toast, called attention to the fact that the birth of HUMBOLDT occurred on the same day as that of the first NAPOLEON; but while the centenial birthday of NAPOLEON received no notice outside of the French Empire, that of HUMBOLDT was celebrated by all the brotherhood of Christian nations throughout the civilized world.

Dr. THOMPSON, in response to the third toast, regretted that Judge DALY, the President of the Geographical Society, which he represented on this occasion, was unavoidably absent, and paid a high compliment to the Judge as one of the few men who, in the present corrupt age preserved the purity, the integrity, the learning, the ability and the honor of the American Judiciary. He complimented the Germans of New-York for the example they had set to Americans of the true way of commemorating the birthday anniversary of their great men.

Mr. STERN spoke eloquently of the community of interest, and the brotherhood of the different nations of the earth, and prophecied that the day was not far distant when the barriers that now obstructed the free commerce of the world would be removed, and such things as custom-houses would be unknown.

The other toasts were fittingly responded to, and it was past 1 o'clock before the banqueters dispersed.

Letter from Mayor Hall.

The following letter was written to the Committee by Mayor HALL:

MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEW-YORK, Sept. 13, 1869.
To Albert Klamroth, No. 64 St. Mark's Square, Secretary Humboldt Celebration Executive Committee:

MY DEAR SIR: I much regret my inability to participate in the Humboldt celebration. Although conscious that for me to attempt eulogy of HUMBOLDT would be like casting a pebble toward the base of a pyramid, I beg to transmit these *banquet sentiments*: "FREDERICK HEINRICH ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT." Ten years have passed away since the very greatest men of the earth assisted in entombing his mortal remains, but three years have served to evidence how impossible it was for such an incomparable man to be classed among the dead. *Throughout all these years botanists, chemists*, geographers, geologists, meteorologists, miners, navigators and naturalists have been forced among their researches after truth to make acquaintance with the comprehensive HUMBOLDT. Upon this his centennial birthday, HUMBOLDT'S demonstration of the unity in design which prevails amid the variety of nature's works is not more apparent than is the unity with which all nations vie in demonstrating reverence for his names. HUMBOLDT was veritably the Alexander who could have vainly sighed after another Kosmos to conquer.

Assuring you of my regard and respect, permit me to remain your obliged and faithful servant,
A. OAKEY HALL.

IN BOSTON.

Exercises in Music Hall—The Audience—The Music—Address of Professor Agassiz.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

BOSTON, Sept. 14.—The one hundredth anniversary of the birth of ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT has been worthily celebrated in Boston to-day. Of the three distinct celebrations, that which took place this afternoon at the Music Hall, under the auspices of the Society of Natural History was most in harmony with the spirit of the occasion. Its central feature, Professor AGASSIZ'S address, was a noble production, grand and simple like the genius and character of the great naturalist it so fittingly eulogized. The audience assembled to hear it represented the best culture of New-England, and included Governor Claflin, Henry W. Longfellow, James Russell Lowell, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Senator Sumner, Colonel F. W. Higginson, Dr. Jefferies Wyman, Senator Wilson, and many others, almost equally distinguished. The exercises began with a preludeon the organ, which was followed by a splendid rendering of LACHUEN'S "Hymn to Music" by the combined German societies of the City; and next came a short prayer by Rev. JAMES WALKER, D. D., followed by MOZART'S "Magic Flute," from the orchestra, and then Professor LOUIS AGASSIZ delivered the following address.

ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR AGASSIZ.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I am invited to an unwonted task. Thus far I have appeared before the public only as a teacher of natural history. To-day, for the first time in my life, I leave a field in which I am at home, to take upon myself the duties of a biographer. If I succeed at all, it will be because I so loved and honored the man whose memory brings us together. ALEXANDER VON HOMBOLDT was born in Berlin in 1769—one hundred years ago this day—in that fertile year which gave birth to Napoleon, Wellington, Canning, Cuvier, Walter Scott, Chateaubriand, and so many other remarkable men. All America was then the property of European monarchs. The first throb of the American Revolution had not yet disturbed the relations of the mother country and her colonies. Spain held Florida, Mexico, and the greater part of South America; France owned Louisiana; and all Brazil was tributary to Portugal. What stupendous changes have taken place since that time in the political world! Divine right of possession was the recognized law on which governments were based. A mighty Republic has since been born, the fundamental principle of which is self-government. Progress in the intellectual world, the world of thought, has kept pace with the advance of civil liberty; reference to authority has been supersedeo by free inquiry; and HUMBOLDT was one of the great leaders in this onward movement. He has bravely fought the battle for independence of thought against the tyranny of authority. No man impressed his century intellectually more powerfully, perhaps no man so powerfully as he. Therefore he is so dear to the Germans, with whom many nations unite to do him honor to-day. Nor is it alone because of what he has done for science, or for any one department of research, that we feel grateful to him, but rather because of that breadth and comprehensiveness of knowledge which lifts whole communities to higher levels of culture, and impresses itself upon the unlearned as well as upon students and scholars. To what degree we Americans are indebted to him, no one knows who is not familiar with the history of learning and education in the last century. All the fundamental facts of popular education in physical science, beyond the merest elementary instruction, we owe to him. We are reaping daily in every school, throughout this broad land, where education is the heritage even of the poorest child, the intellectual harvest sown by him. See this map of the United States;—all its important features are based upon his investigations; for he first recognized the great relations of the earth's physical features, the laws of climate on which the whole system of isothermal lines is based, the relative height of mountain chains and table-lands, the distribution of vegetation on the whole earth. There is not a text-book of geography or a school atlas in the hands of our children to-day, which does not bear, however blurred and defaced, the impress of his great mind. But for him our geographies would be mere enumerations of localities and statistics. He first suggested the graphic methods of representing natural phenomena which are now universally adopted. The first geological sections, the first sections across an entire continent, the first averages of climate illustrated by lines, were his. Every school-boy is familiar with his methods now, but he does not know that HUMBOLDT is his teacher. The fertilizing power of a great mind is wonderful; but as we travel further from the source, it is hidden from us by the very abundance and productiveness it has caused. How few of us remember that the tidal lines, the present mode of registering magnetic phenomena and the action of oceanic currents, are but the application of HUMBOLDT'S researches, and of his graphic mode of recording them. This great man was a feeble child, and had less facility in his studies than most children. For this reason his early education was intrusted to private teachers, his parents being wealthy, and of a class whose means and position command the advantages denied to so many. It is worthy of note that when he was a little fellow not more than 7 years old, his teacher was CAMPE, author of the German *Robinson Crusoe*. We can fancy how he amused the boy with the ever-fresh story of Crusoe on his desert island, and inspired him even at that early age with the passionate love of travel and adventure which was to bear such fruit in later years. Neither should we omit, in recalling memories of his childhood, his tender relation to his older brother WILLIAM. These two brothers went together to the University of Frankfort, and after two years at Frankfort, went to Gottingen, where they passed the two following years. Leaving the University at the age of 21, he began to make serious preparations for the great journeys toward which all his hopes tended. His first journey was important rather for the circumstances under which it was made than for any local interest. He went to the Rhine with GEORGE FORSTER, who had accompanied COOK in his second journey round the world. HUMBOLDT was too ardent and too independent to be a laggard in the great public questions of the day. He also believed, like FORSTER, in the Republic of France, and in the dawn of civil liberty for Europe. At that time the great war was waging between the Neptunists and Plutonists, that is, between the two great schools in Geology, one attributing the rocks to fire as the great constructive agent, the other asserting that all rocks were the result of water deposits. His interest in the subject carried him to Freiberg, where he studied Geology with WERNER, and where he made acquaintance with LEOPOLD VON BUCH. All the while he brooded over his schemes of travel. His desires turned especially toward India. He wished to visit the East, and reaching India by way of Egypt, Syria and Persia, to cross the Pacific and return to Europe through America. In this he was foiled. Europe was in a blaze; between contending armies there was little room for peaceful travel and investigation. He went to Paris with the hope of joining BAUDIN'S contemplated expedition to Australia. In this he was again baulked. His next hope was Spain. Here he was successful. He not only received permission to visit the colonies, but special facilities for his investigations were offered him. Nearly ten years had passed in maturing his plans, preparing himself for their execution and obtaining the means of carrying them out. He was about 30 years of age when he sailed from the harbor of Corunna, running out in a dark and stormy night, and so evading the English cruisers which then blockaded the Spanish coast. At the first step of the journey, namely, his pause at the Canary Islands and ascension of the Peak of Teneriffe, he has left us a graphic picture of the place, of its volcanic phenomena, its geological character, and the distribution of its vegetation, in which are foreshadowed all his later generalizations. BONPLAND accompanied him in his journey to South America; and when HUMBOLDT was engaged so exclusively in physical experiments as to prevent him from joining the botanical researches, they were nevertheless not interrupted, for BONPLAND was unremitting in the study of plants and in making collections. After months thus spent in the neighborhood of the coast, HUMBOLDT crossed the Llanos, the great plains which divide the basin of the Orinoco from the seashore. Here again every step of his journey is marked by original research. He has turned those desert plains into enchanted land by the power of his thought, and left us descriptions as fascinating from their beauty as they are valuable for their novelty and precision. Had it not been for the illiberality of the Portuguese Government, he would probably have gone down the Rio Negro to the Amazons. He was, however, turned back from the mighty river by a prohibition which made it dangerous to proceed further on pain of imprisonment and the possible renunciation of all his cherished plans. When, in my late exploration of the Amazonian Valley, I read his narrative again, on the spot, I could not but contrast the cordial liberality which smoothed every difficulty in my path with the dangers, obstacles and suffering which beset his. I approached, however, so near the scene of his labors that I was constantly able to compare my results with his, and to recognize the extent of his knowledge and the comprehensiveness of his views, even where the progress of science led to a different interpretation of the facts. I omit all notice of his visit to Cuba, and his journey through Mexico. HUMBOLDT'S is the first general map of Mexico and Cuba, based upon astronomical observations.

The next great stage of the American journey is along the ridge of the Andes. We follow him with his train of mules, bearing the most delicate instruments, through the passes of the great chain. Measuring the mountains—sounding the valleys as he went—tracing the distribution of vegetation on slopes 20,000 feet high—examining extinct and active volcanoes, collecting and drawing animals and plants. Many of these ascensions were attended with infinite danger and difficulty. He climbed the Chimborazo to a height of 18,000 feet at a time when no other man had ever ascended so far above the level of the sea, and was only prevented from reaching the summit by an impassable chasm, in which he nearly lost his life. Returning from the Andes, HUMBOLDT skirted the Pacific from Truxillo to Acapulco, and paused in Mexico again. From Mexico he went to Havana, and from Havana sailed for Philadelphia. He was cordially received by JEFFERSON on his visit to Washington, and warmly welcomed by scientific men in Philadelphia. But he made no important researches in the United States, and sailed for Europe soon after his arrival. He returned to Paris in 1804, having been five years absent from Europe. It was a brilliant period in science, letters and polics in the great capital. The young traveler, bringing intellectual and material treasures even to men who had grown old in research, was welcomed by all, and in this great centre of social and intellectual life he made his home for the most part, from 1805 to 1807. He devoted himself to the publication of his results, and secured as his collaborators in this work the ablest men of the day. While of course superintending more or less all the publications, HUMBOLDT himself was engaged especially with those upon physical geography, meteorology and zoology. His investigations into the history of the discovery of America have a special interest for us. We learn from him that the name of our continent was first introduced into the learned world by WALTZEEMULLER, a German professor, settled at St. Dié, in Lorraine—Hylacomylus, as he called himself, at a time when scholars were wont to translate their names into the dead languages and thought it more dignified to appear under a Greek or Latin garb. This cosmographer published the first map of the New World, with an account of the journeys of AMERICUS VESPUCCI, whose name he affixed to the lands recently discovered. HUMBOLDT shows us also that COLUMBUS' discovery was no accident, but grew naturally out of the speculations of the time, themselves the echo of a far-off dream, which he follows back into the dimness of Grecian antiquity. We recognize again here the characteristic features of HUMBOLDT'S mind, in his constant endeavor to trace discoveries through all the stages of their progress. Although he made his headquarters in Paris, it became necessary for HUMBOLDT, during the preparation of so many extensive works, to undertake journeys in various parts of Europe. It was during one of his first visits to Berlin, where he went to consult about the organization of the University with his brother WILLIAM, then Minister of State in Prussia, that he published those fascinating *Views of Nature*, in which he has given pictures of the tropics as vivid and as exciting to the imagination as if they lived on the canvas of some great artist. The question naturally arises, Who provided for the expenses of these extensive literary undertakings? HUMBOLDT himself. No one knows exactly what he has spent in the publication of his works. Some approach to an estimate may, however, be made by computing the cost of printing, paper and engraving, which cannot have amounted to less than $250,000. No doubt the sale indemnified him in some degree, but all know that such publications do not pay. The price of a single copy of the complete work on America is $2,000—double that of the great national work published by France upon Egypt, for the publication of which the Government spent about $800,000. Of course very few copies can be sold of a work of this magnitude. But from his youth upward HUMBOLDT spent his private means liberally, not only for the carrying out and subsequent publication of his own scientific undertakings, but to forward the work of younger and poorer men. In his old age he lived upon a small pension granted to him by the King of Prussia. He was the friend of artists, no less than of scientific and literary men. His desire to make his illustrations worthy of the great objects they were to represent brought him into constant and intimate relation with the draughtsmen and painters of his day. Even DAVID did not think it below his dignity to draw an allegoric title-page for the great work. He valued equally the society of intelligent and cultivated women, such as Mme. DE STAEL, Mme. RECAMIER, RAHEL, BETTINA and many others less known to fame. He was intimate with statesmen, politicians and men of the world. The familiarity of HUMBOLDT with the natural resources of the countries he had visited,—with their mineral products and precious metals—made his opinion valuable, not only in matters of commerce, but important to the Governments of Europe; and after the colonies of South America had achieved their independence, the allied Powers of Europe invited him to make a report upon the political condition of the new republics. In 1822 he attended the Congress of Verona, and visited the south of Italy with the King of Prussia. Thus his life was associated with the political growth and independence of the New World, as it was intimately allied with the literary, scientific and artistic interests of the Old. The philosophical geography of our days is based upon HUMBOLDT'S investigations. He is, indeed, the founder of comparative geography, that all-embracing science of our globe. His correspondence with BERGHAUS testifies his intense interest in the progress of geograph